

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Taggart

Examiner: Soubra, I.

Serial No.: 09/330,768

Art Unit: 1744

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For: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING STERILIZATION ZONES IN AN ASEPTIC PACKAGING STERILIZATION TUNNEL**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

7/18
2.8.
7/31/01

RULE 112

DO NOT ENTER

OK TO ENTER

This paper is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 22, 2001.

Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified application be reconsidered in view of the Amendments and Remarks that follow, that each of the presently pending claims be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Amendment

Please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

In The Claims

Please cancel claims 4 and 34:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) Apparatus comprising:

a sterilization tunnel for surrounding a plurality of containers with pressurized gas; and
at least one partition forming a plurality of zones within a sterilization tunnel having
different sterilant concentration levels.